NAM National Association of Manufacturers

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS ALERT

NAM CALLS ON OSHA TO REVISE STRINGENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS FOLLOWING CRS STUDY OF SECOND HAND SMOKE

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 17, 1995 -- Citing a Congressional Research Service (CRS) study concluding that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) lacked scientific evidence on which to base its proposed regulations further restricting smoking in the workplace, National Association of Manufacturers Vice President Mike Baroody today called on the agency to "go back to the drawing board." CRS released the results of its 20-month study which raises serious questions into the scientific reliablity of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) methods of analyzing OSHA's Indoor Air Quality.

The National Association of Manufacturers has vigorously opposed the proposed rule regarding air quality standards and today called on OSHA to reopen hearings on the the proposed regulation.

"In light of the CRS findings, it's evident that faulty data was used in proposing this sweeping and controverial rule," said NAM's Mike Baroody, vice president, public affairs. "It seems clear that there is no scientific justification to require workplaces to implement overzealous and bureaucratic indoor air quality standards. OSHA's proposed rules would cost billions of dollars to implement and as the CRS report reveals, would yield little or no benefit to either workers or customers."

The report, entitled the Environmental Tobacco Smoke and Lung Cancer Risk, examined workplace and public exposure to ETS and concluded that:

- "The statistical evidence does not appear to support a conclusion that there

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are substantial health effects of passive smoking." (p.7)

- "Therefore, had OSHA performed a meta-analysis, it seems likely that it would have found no increased lung cancer risk from occupational ETS exposure." (p.62)
- "Even at the greatest integrated exposure levels, the measured risks are still subject to uncertainty." (p.2)
- "It is clear that misclassification and recall bias plague ETS epidemiology studies." (p.45)

Last year OSHA proposed rules to require businesses to implement costly air ventilation systems largely as a result of purported EPA findings on the dangers of second hand smoke. OSHA received more than 100,000 comments on the proposed rule including extensive comments from NAM in opposition to the IAQ rule challenges OSHA assertions that the risks to be significant even though they could not be described qualitatively or quantitatively.

"The CRS report reinforces the need for more rigorous science," said Baroody. "We need to be sure there is a solid health benefit before asking American business to spend billions of dollars that would otherwise go toward creating more jobs."

The NAM is the nation's largest industrial-trade association representing more than 13,500 manufacturers, of which 10,000 are small manufacturers.

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